15¢

THE COMIC READER #33

January, 1965

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK FANS & COLLECTORS
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GLEN D. JOHNSON, BOX 126, CROWNPOINT, NEW MEX. 87313

To the Readers

There has been a great deal of criticism regarding TCR #31, and other issues. Whether it is necessary or not, I'd like to take the offensive and combat some of the remarks fans have made.

Since TCR #32 is the most recent issue I've published, I'll discuss some of the problems that arose. Originally I had planned this issue to run 22 pages. An ad for SSC arrived which I had not planned for as well as the ad for Don Foote which was owed to him by Jerry Bails. The Alley Ballots were two pages longer than I had expected them to be, and Jeremy Barry never sent his fanzine review. I can't blame Jeremy for this as I never wrote him after sending TCR #31. Last but not least, Jerry Pritchett had trouble completeing the two pages he had promised, and tho' I held #32 up for a week after finishing all I could do, I received one sheet with the first page of "On the Drawing Board". I had expected the Ditko art on the reverse side, but this arrived a week after #32 had been mailed. When the one sheet sent by Jerry arrived, I didn't even have the time to use the back side, but had to leave it blank and mail #32 as it was. I'd like to mention that I'm not blaming Jerry, as he did all he could, and was gracious enough to foot the bill for 2 sheets of material, plus postage.

Another just gripe is the lack of news in certain issues of "On the Drawing Board". Many fans complained because there is nothing of value, or the news is old. I realise this, but since Marvel announced that no letters would be answered, this source has been cut off. If I'm not mistaken, Jerry Bails heard quite frequently from the various editors. How he was able to accomplish this is unknown to me. I have continued to send each editor in the business a free copy of each issue of TCR since I have taken over with #26. I don't think fandom as a whole supports TCR the way they did a few years ago. Occasionally I have noticed new items in other fanzines that I was not aware of. When an issue is due out, and I've not enough info, I have to use anything at my disposal. A logical answer to this might be to publish less frequently. Two points against this are: Many times one item of great importance would be stale by holding off. Another reason is that TCR is not my zine, and the Board controls the frequency of publication.

Robert Jennings mentioned in "Wall's Notebooks" that I had previously mentioned

continue next page.

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that fandom had very little influence on the pros. This is true, but I also stated that I was against trying to force the pros to see our way. I did not say that we should stop trying to influence them. The idea of the Spectre/Sheldon Moldoff was George Pacinda's, not mine. The main reason this was used was because news was light, and it was either an ad or the illo.

Another item frequently mentioned is that 25¢ for TCR is too much. I'd like to point out that over half the subscribers pay only 20¢, which is an open offer to all Supporting members of the Academy. First class mail always takes 10¢, and I'll wager that no other fanzine published, sends as many complimentary copies to pros. TCR #32 cost 15¢ to mail and if you will consider that only 20¢ was paid by half the number receiving that issue, I'm sure that you will agree the 5¢ didn't cover the cost of fluid, paper, etc. Jerry Bails insisted that I charge 25¢ or I'd go in the red. Even now if anyone thinks I'm making money you're out of your mind.

News Credits: Jerry Bails, Jeremy Barry, E. Nelson Bridwell, Paul Leiffer, Ron Fradkin, Ray Miller and Andy Zerbe

Contributors for this issue:
Cover.......................................Ronn Foss
Academy News.......................Paul Gambaccini
OTDB illo................................Doug Potter
Zine Review...................Jeremy A. Barry
Spiderman/Dr. Strange..............Steve Ditko
Chicago Meet...........................Alex Almaraz

Back issues: #26 (incomplete) five cents, #'s 28, 30, and 31 - 25¢. TCR #'s 27, 29, and 32 are all sold out.

TCR is published and edited monthly by Glen D. Johnson. TCR is a non-profit monthly amateur fanzine published for the enjoyment of comic fans. 25¢ per issue.

Magicman is the property of the ACG.

Spiderman & Dr. Strange is the property of Marvel.

If I've overlooked anything, please comment and I'll try to clear it up.

* *

THE BEST NEWS SOURCE. For the benefit of those who started to subscribe to TCR late, I'd like to bring you up to date regarding the news prize that is awarded each issue. Jerry Bails sponsors the contest each issue, and he awards as a prize, comic prints, original art, foreign comics, or something of greater value to the person who sends me the best information concerning coming events in comics. So...if you hear of anything happening in the field of comic art, please send the item. One item of importance can win. No person can win the prize two consecutive times. The best news this month was from Paul Lieffer, so he can look for something from Jerry Bails.

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LATE FANZINES ANYONE? Last month I announced that any zine editor who would not have his zine out on time was welcomed to free space in TCR to let fans know this. Gregory Feldman is the first to take up my offer. Greg writes that his fanzine, COMIC COMMENT #2 will be quite late. It was originally scheduled for October of 1964, but it has been changed to March, 1965. He is having trouble with his mimeograph. Anyone wishing to have their money returned, send Greg a postcard, and he will send the money and 4¢ for your card. Jerry Bails writes that the reprinting of the All-Star Index will be late, and that it will be after Christmas or later. Also late will be Johnny Ryans HOUSE OF HEROES.

NEW ADDRESSES: Buddy Saunders - 2102 Menefee, Arlington, Texas 76012
Ronn Foss - 1624 N. French, Santa Ana, California 92701
Danny Cassidy - 5514 Norde Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32210

FOR THE BENEFIT OF SUP. MEM.: Coupons #2,3,4, and 5 sent out to '65 sup. mem. are good for $2.00 in discounts from Jerry Bails. Send Jerry an S.A.E. for full particulars on these four offers.

SHOWCASE. There'll be a second DR. FATE-HOURMAN appearance in SHOWCASE. This time they battle the Psycho-Pirate-but not the original. Julie decided to kill him off. The new Psycho-Pirate is his heir, who is even more dangerous. Rex Tyler's fiancee is featured in this issue.

GIL KANE. Have you noticed Gil Kane's frequent use of caricatures of movie stars? For instance, the Atom recently battled Boris Karloff, while Green Lantern fought Edward G. Robinson and Lee Marvin. Gil has mentioned he likes to do this. His favorite is Cagney, who is frequently used. Is Kane inking the "Star Hawkins" strip?

ADVENTURE. In the May issue, the Legion hunts the super-Moby Dick of space. Lightning Lad loses an arm to the monster and becomes the "Capt. Abab" of the story. The all-Luthor SUPERMAN GIANT is about set. It'll include the first Lena Thorul story; "The Impossible Mission", in which superboy tries to save Lincoln from Booth; and the Luthor-Prankster-Toyman team.

DICK TRACY. Harvey Publications has scheduled for December a Dick Tracy issue. How long has it been since Harvey published its last issue of Dick Tracy? Maybe the Green Hornet is around the corner. Since he is again doing so well on the radio, I think he might sell as a comic.

THE FLY. After an absent of over five months, it looks as if another issue of the Fly will be out in December.

ALEX TOTH. Toth fans, will be glad as I am, that he is again doing art for D.C. His latest work can be seen in House of Mystery. Maybe he'll get a crack at other Schiff edited magazines. Ever wonder how he'd do on Adam Strange?

TARZAN. Hulbert Burroughs informed Jeremy Barry that Aurora Plastics Corp. does not plan a Tarzan model kit. The Info was taken from a Burroughs' fanzine. EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS, Inc. has filed a lawsuit in NYC against Charlton-Gold Star Books-International Library. This is all one firm. Obviously the suit is in regard to the three unauthorized Tarzan books, and the Charlton Tarzan comic. Justice must prevail, but I hope that Charlton puts out the third edition of Tarzan, they're doing a great job.

LEND AN EAR MARVEL FANS. Larry Ivie will soon be drawing the TORCH-THING strip for old Stan Lee, as well as some writing whenever possible. Being a fan himself, I'm sure Larry's work will be well received.

CHARLTON. Joe Gill is not the only writer Charlton has. E.H. Hart, a former 'Timely' man does some good writing now and then. There are others also, maybe there names will come out sooner or later.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE - NY News Syndicate has released 3 new comic strips within the past month: "Mr. Magoo", "Hagen, Fagin & O'Toole" by Wayne Brinherhoff (writer) and Chuck Bower (art), and "Hapless Harry" by magazine gag cartoonist George Gately (Gallagher).

JACK SPARLING, who has recently drawn DC's "Eclipso" is a graduate of Corcoran School of Art, former editorial cartoonist, artist of daily strips (no longer running) "Hap Hopper", "Clair-voyant", "Honor Eder" and "Sam Hill", has also contributed to ACT (Forbidden Worlds, ETC.)

AN AFTER THOUGHT! From Principles of Criminology, Edwin Sutherland and Donald Cressey, p. 332-"...People in a city are anonymous. Two generations ago criminals wore masks, but this practice occurs only infrequently today. The criminal is a stranger, and it is difficult to identify a stranger..." Now where does this leave the growing crop of costumed criminals in today's comic books?

ARCHIE. A long time artist with MLJ/Archie, Harry Lucy is still working today. He handled Hangman and other costume heroes. The superb artist who did the Black Hood, and other MLJ strips...his name is not Al Camey but Al Camerata.

BLUE BEETLE. Fanzine artist Alan Weiss designed a new costume for B.B., and it is shown on the letter page of #5. The costume is an eye catcher.

EVERETT RAYMOND KINSTLER is undoubtedly with PORTRAITS, Inc., since his recent illustrations, book jackets and portraits have far eclipsed his comicbooks work. Kinstler was born in 1926, studied at the Art Students' League, and employed the pen-name "Everett Raymond" while doing comics.

OBITUARY: Percy Lee Crosby, creator of Skippy" died in New York, Dec. 8, 1964 on his 73rd birthday. Mr. Crosby began his career at 19 as a sports cartoonist on the NY Globe, and studied at the Art Students' League. He created "Skippy" in 1923 for the old Life magazine before bringing him to King Features. Crosby retired 22 years ago because of ill health.

PAUL LIEFFER writes, "Several factors may prevent Al Williamson's becoming a regular with Gold Key (on a proposed "Flash Gordon" original mag): in addition to illustration he regularly does pencil work on 3 popular comic-strips-"Rip Kirby", "Big Ben Bolt" and "Dan Flagg".

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN. Phil Davis, artist for Mandrake since its inception in 1934 died at the age of 58 on Dec. 16, 1964 of a heart attack in St. Louis. Lee Falk, creator and scripter of the strip, and Mandrake, will continue, and he hopes to find a new artist as soon as possible.

KIRBY PUBLISHING COMPANY, published 4 (or 5) comics back in the 1950's. These comics contained 144 pages of humor, crime and Glorious Dames strips all in full color. Artists who worked for these issues were: Bob Powell, Wally Wood, Graham Ingles.

CORRECTIONS: The Kane cover is on #5, not #4 for Naza. Sparling's cover must be upcoming on #6, not #5. Since I don't buy Naza, I won't know if this is correct. A second mistake was stating that the two Shadow novels, RETURN OF THE SHADOW and THE SHADOW STRIKES, were reprints. Instead they are brand-new.

QUOTES FROM THE READERS

Ron Fradkin
33 Tinder Lane
Levittown, N. Y.

About Danny Cassidy's letter: While the majority of Schiff's Batman stories belong in the trashcan he turned out several good stories. Among my favorites are "Menace of the Dragon Society"and the first Clayface story.

Steve Kelez
Box 457
Talmage, California

With all the talk about Kubert doing Batman, ever wondered what he could do with the Shadow? ((No, but I do imagine that he could do wonders with his style. What do others think?))

Cole Bleckley
1004 Main Street
Conway, S.C.

Do you know anything about the possibility of reviving Congorilla as drawn by Howard Sherman (in Action and Adventure)? I thought this was a very good series and just before Bizarro moved in, the 13 pages of it had very well-written plots. Howard Sherman's work in Jack Schiff's "S-F" titles have been beautiful in my opinion. What do other fans think of Sherman & Congorilla? Also, what about ASTRO by Sherman in H. of Mystery? I'd like to hear what others think.((Granted; Howard Sherman is doing some great art, but I never cared for Congorilla, this doesn't mean others didn't. As for Astro, I'd like to see more of him. As many fans know, Sherman is an old-timer with D.C., and recently returned to D.C. Another artist, Howard Purcell is also back. If anyone cares, he is now doing Space Ranger in MIS, and doing a good job with such a limited Character.// Instead of reviving a character like Congorilla, I'd rather see Capt. Comet reprinted in Showcase or B&B. It seems like an easy matter since the strip is not that old. If you like the idea, suggest it to D.C.))

Norman Penovick
220 Licking St.
Toledo, Ohio

I suggest the Alley Awards be done away with...or drastically revised. Take for example the fact that Jack Kirby was nominated for best artist last year, while Curtis Swan was ignored! I can understand someone preferring Carmine Infantino, or Murphy Anderson--they, along with Swan are the best. But Kirby's work is such bland waste it must be some stupid prejudice that made the supposedly intelligent Board members nominate him.// If the Board members are not well acquainted -- then this is a serious fault which should be corrected.// I fear there is a lot of anti-Superman sentiment among the older fans who were around in the "Golden Days" of comics. Some of these fans resent Superman because he managed to survive to the present days while others failed.// I will not vote in the Alley Awards if Swan is not nominated. I also hope that Kirby is not elected since I believe the opposite of Stan Lee and that Kirby is working not for quality but for money. I am also under the impression that Kirby can, and is doing, his worst work and yet get praised for these atrocious scribblings while an artist as good as Curtis Swan who tries his darndest on each and every story gets ignored by fandom as a whole. I believe the majority of comic fans prefer Swan infinitely much more than Kirby. ((Norman goes on to state that everyone is entitled to his own opinion. I'm sure some fan will answer these charges, and until then, I'll throw in my views. First and foremost, no matter how good an artist is, fans won't follow his work unless it is something interesting. For example, I like the style of the artist who

does Kid Montana for Charlton. Some fans believe this is George Tuska or was, but it is not. I don't buy the title because I'm not interested in Westerns. I also don't buy many Superman comics because it's like a company in itself. There is too much of it. Another thing is that all the artists draw in much the same style, I can't tell one from the other. How can you become acquainted with the work when the editor will not allow the artists to sign their work, or if he wants young fans to believe all art is the work of one person. Regarding the anti-Superman sentiment among older fans, how can this be true. Batman was a carry over from the old days, and with better stories he has had a number of nominations for an Alley. The same might happen with Superman if his stories were graded to more of an adult mind. As for Kirby, I must admit he is far down on my list. This is to be expected with the amount of work he has to do. I may be mistaken, but I don't think another artist has ever turned out his volumn of work. Well, what do others have to say?))

Leopold Beaudet
3905 University St.
Montreal, P. Que.
Canada

Thanks for TCR #31, even though it was a rather short issue. You have my vote for the type of cover on #31. TCR doesn't need a full-size cover, and yet it should have some sort of illustration adorning it; what you used for TCR #31 is just about perfect. Will be eagerly awaiting #32 with its promised goodies. Couldn't you regulate the features of TCR so that each issue is of about the same quality? Issue #28 was followed by two about average issues, which in turn were followed by one below standard. Now #32 is shaping up to be another packed ish. Will it too be followed by two or three average iss? ((The above letter is typical of the letters and opinions regarding #31. Many fans complained about the lack of news. This is no fault of my own. If I don't receive news, or if news isn't sent, how am I expected to have a news packed issue? A few fans have suggested that TCR be published less frequently, and only when news warrents it. This is out of my hands. The Board voted that I publish TCR monthly, and to do otherwise would not be in my hands. Still, other fans have repeatedly suggested that TCR carry articles pertaining to costume heroes. TCR is not a fanzine in this sense, but a newsletter with the main purpose of carrying important news quickly to the reader. If TCR is failing to do this, I'm sorry but I'm trying. As for regulating features, this also causes a problem. Since TCR is monthly, I'm not allowed much time to prepare each issue. Besides, I have a family and a teaching profession. As it is, I devote on the average, two hrs. each week-night, and four and five hours each week-end to writing fans, typing, questions, looking into news sources, etc. If anyone thinks I am getting rich, think again! I'm always open to suggestions. One last thought, I've received a lot of complaints about the amount of show-through on certain pages. The reason for this is that I returned my ditto to the manufacturer, and I've been using an old beat-out thing that should have long been rejected as unfit.))

Steve Kelez
Box 457
Talmage, Calif.

The Comic Reader #32 was a very good issue this time at bat. The news section was extra long, & always interesting. I was waiting to see the Alley Ballots, but instead I was greated by a mess. The amateur section was the worst that could possible happen. Paul should have stayed with the format Jerry Bails used. As far as I

am concerned the amateur division was just a choice between 5 or 6 people in every part. The whole thing looks like it's fixed, though it probably isn't. I, for one, am not even going to vote. What happened to the fanzine review? Barry's name was given credit, but I didn't find anything in my copy of TCR.
((Each to his own opinion, but I think that Paul did an excellent job with the ballots & this has been the opinion of a good number of other fans. I'm sorry about Jeremy Barry's zine review being absent from TCR #32. I had expected it, but since Paul had asked that no fanzine up for Alley consideration be reviewed, Jeremy figured there wasn't enough zines for a review. I'm sorry that Ditko's art for #32 wasn't in that issue. Before some write and ask about John McGeehan's checklist, it will be in #34. John spent a great deal of time compiling this item, and it is nine pages. Coming in future issues of TCR will be THE COMIC MIRROR and POV.

SPECTACULAR will be the only way to describe ECIP COMICS #2.
EPIC #2 will be a giant improvement over issue #1.
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All this and adds plus why I think superheroes will soon become extinct!!

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TCR #28

NOMINATED as one of the best fanzines in the 1964 Alley Awards.

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by Fred Harman

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by Russ Manning

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by Robert Jennings

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by Jeremy A. Barry

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Issues #30 and 31 are also available at the same prices.

DOWN UNDER #1

If you haven't ordered DOWN UNDER #1, I would advise you to do so. It's the first of its kind from Australia. For those who haven't received their copy, they should, as I've received mine, and DU # 1 is on its way to you if you ordered. For the fans who have not ordered, I highly recommend this issue. Here are some of the great features: a 10 page review on the Australian comic scene since 1939, a POV on Aussie comics, a classic Australian story from yesterday's re-told, an advert section that lists many old comics from the Golden Age for sale/trade...all this and much much more.

DOWN UNDER #1 is edited and Published by John T. Ryan.

All U.S. orders are handled by Larry Herndon- 1830 Highland Drive, Carrollton, Texas

Send 40¢ (50¢ mint) to Larry so you won't miss out!

* *

MANY FANS HAVE continually suggested 'special features' to appear in each issue of TCR. The following 'special feature' is written, edited and published by myself. I hope that many will respond by sending money for something you don't have (send the money even if you already have a copy) If this feature doesn't enjoy outstanding success, it might appear again. I just know you'll love it, so...read away (but read very carefully).

Glen D. Johnson Box 126 Crownpoint, New Mexico

All payment must be send with orders. Minimum order is $1.00. Orders under $1.00, send 15¢ to cover handling. If you are not satisfied with any copy, you may return it for the full amount. Alternate choices appreciated. All issues 25¢ per issue unless otherwise marked.

National-D.C.

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ANDY ZERBE
3154 DuPont St.
Montgomery 6, Ala.

I was looking over the three DOC SAVAGE books recently, reprinted by Bantam, when it struck me that the early Superman was merely Doc Savage with slightly increased powers. Even their careers show some similarities.

Doc Savage was the Man of Bronze, while Superman is the Man of Steel, and they are both supermen. While Doc Savage can't leap over tall buildings, he can leap higher, run faster, and jump further than anyone else. His strenght is unbelievable. He thinks nothing of taking on a dozen men singledhanded and defeating them all in less than a minute. He can also see, hear, and smell much better than anyone else.

As for his intelligence, his five assistants are the greatest men in the world in their respective fields of geology & archaeology, engineering, chemistry, electricity, and law, yet Doc Savage knows more about these fields then they do and much more besides. Like Superman, Doc Savage started out willing to take human life if necessary, and like Superman he gradually developed a reluctance to do so over the years. Also, like the Man of Steel, Doc Savage gained a pesky girl friend who was always trying to get him to marry her.

All of this leads me to believe that just as Capt. Marvel was a Superman imatator, Superman is a Doc Savage imatator. Siegle probably got the idea for Superman while reading some Doc Savage story and simply gave Superman greater powers.

end.

LET THE RECORD SPEAK FOR ITSELF!

4 ALLEY NOMINATIONS!

★ BEST FANZINE — *ALTER EGO #7*

★ BEST COVER — *4-COLOR LITHO by BILJO*

★ BEST STRIP — *"Alter and Capt. Ego" by BILJO*

★ BEST ARTICLE — *"One Man's Family" by ROY THOMAS*

Have you missed the latest issue of the world's first super-hero fanzine? If so, you're missing 40 pages of photo-offset excitement, adventure, and plain good reading. AE-7 features: Richard Kyle on the Justice Society vs. Solomon Grundy; "Alter and Captain Ego," by Biljo White; "One Man's Family---The Saga of the Marvel Family" by Roy Thomas; Pro Nelson Bridwell on the monster tradition in literature and comics; "The Gilded Age of Comics," a cartoon feature by "shel silverfish"; "A Hot Idea---The Human Torch" by Rick Strong; a long and informative letter from Otto Binder, the brain behind Captain Marvel; two photographs and one drawing of JOY HOLIDAY, the spirit of fandom; a Bestest League cartoon; contest for JIA art; etc.

Hear what some pros have said about ALTER EGO # 7:

"A superior production." Mort Weisinger.

"Professional. That is the only word I can call to mind which properly describes it." Gardner F. Fox.

"A super-issue!" Otto Binder.

And if you've already received AE-7, you won't want to miss # 8, on sale in late January 1965. Projected partial contents: Roy Thomas on the super-heroes of Mexico; the return of the Eclipse (Ronn Foss/ Danny Moroz); First Great Days of Blackhawk; other great features.

SEND 60¢ for copy mailed in manila envelope to:

Roy Thomas * 3600 Hallmark Lane * Apt. G * St. Louis, Missouri 63125

ANNOUNCING

the latest Academy developments!!!

...Paul Gambaccini, Executive Secretary

THE 1965 COMICON will be held in New York City, July 31-August 1, under the direction of con-coordinator David Kaler, P.O. Box 392, Cooper Station, N.Y. 10003. The fee for the affair is $5. All fans are urged to make their reservation now with Dave. The reason for this request is that the sooner enough money comes in, the hall will be rented, and concrete arrangements about attractions will be discussed. You are also advised to seek your own accomodations before the few days before the con, as these accomodations may be hard to find at the time. Send ALL MONEY TO DAVE, not to me. If you have anything to offer the con---a display, suggestions, or even a rare curiosity piece ---contact Dave as soon as possible.

All who send in their $5 will immediately be given receipts. If the turnout is quite large, as it is hoped, a partial refund may be given. At any rate, sign up now.

Arrangements for Convention Bulletins, Tickets, and Convention Magazine are being considered at the moment. Once again, suggestions are welcomed. Remember, please make all checks, money orders, or whatever, payable to David Kaler; the name Academy of Comic Book Arts and Sciences is <u>not</u> a legal name unless a bank account is in that name. Although I have one, others concerned with Academy developments are not. Please consider their position when writing out checks and such.

Further details will be announced in upcoming issues of TCR. Stay tuned---and try to attend!

The Executive Board also has passed, by an overwhelming majority (the full tally will be covered in an Election Extra later this year), the Charter of the Academy Fanzine Library. Here it is:

CHARTER OF THE ACADEMY FANZINE LIBRARY

(1) Those fanzine editors who wish to have their comic-slanted publications considered in the Alley Polls each year must send at least one complimentary copy of each issue to be considered to the Executive Secretary of the Academy. Extra or back copies, or issues of fanzines that are not comic-slanted, while not necessary, will also be welcomed and appreciated for library purposes. The Executive Secretary will compile a list of all those fanzines received after the last year's deadline but before the present year's deadline. This list will be supplied to Board Members along with the Alley Nominating Ballots. At convenient intervals, the Exec. Sec. will then forward those zines received to the fanzine library librarian. Until an interested, responsible librarian is found, the Executive Secretary shall serve as librarian.

(2) Only Supporting Members of the Academy will be entitled to use of the Library.

(3) Supporting members wishing to use the library will note their choices on a reproduced form list compiled by the librarian at 2-month intervals and available for a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The borrower will be charged with postage and insurance costs(all zines are to carry at least $10(10¢ cost) insurance), plus an addition tab of 5¢ per zine loaned to pay for thereproduction of the list and other costs. The borrower will have four(month of 28 days for this purpose) weeks from postmark date of the package sent from the librarian until the postmark date of the return. Extensions may be requested in advance, but to be granted by the librarian only when the latter, at his discretion, sees fit to grant one.

(4) Damages will be penalized only when the librarian considers the damage excessively severe, obviously not caused by the mails. In this case, the borrower shall pay what Academy Officers consider to be the honest current "market price" for a mint copy of that particular issue. (OVER)

(5) Any borrower who refuses to pay his bill will be denied Supporting Membership in the following year, and this failure will be announced in the Academy newsletter.

This charter is effective immediately. Thus, all faneds who wish to have their zines considered for the 1965 Alley Poll must have their zines in the hands of the Executive Secretary by November 1st. This INCLUDES November 1st.

To give the Library a start, fans are requested not to send for any lists until an announcement is made in these pages, probably within two months.

The Executive Board is currently considereng an Amendment to the Academy charter that would create the position of Membership Secretary. Under the proposal, this officer would also act as Treasurer of the Academy. The progress of this amendment will be given in TCR next issue.

The Board is also currently entertaining proposals on many other facets of comicdom---special Academy publications, the need or not for an annual WHO'S WHO, price regulation, condition regulation, a name change to the Academy of Comic ART Fans and Collectors, and quite a few others. If you have any thoughts on these subjects, please send them to me at 8 Elizabeth Dr., Westport, Conn. 06882.

Once again, may I remind tardy ones that an Alley Ballot for those who have not yet voted is still available from me for 10¢, a thin dime. Supporting memberships are but $2.

Supporting members will soon receive in the mails a sheet of numbered coupons. Each of these will be good for a particular bargain offer. The front side of the coupons contains the coupon number and the signature of the Executive Secretary(this to avoid forgery). Members will be requested to write their names on the back of each coupon. Remember this point when mailing your coupons.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF TCR WILL ANNOUNCE WHAT PUBLICATIONS THE FIRST, and perhaps a few more, coupons will be good for. Just keep the sheet until you see the announcements in TCR!

Because of the demand for an additional WHO'S WHO this year, a revised edition will be published. Whether this will appear as sheets in a series of TCR issues or one special publication remains to be seen. SUPPORTING MEMBERS WILL BE LISTED FREE OF CHARGE in this publication, with free biographical and such information. See the sheets elsewhere in this issue! TO INSURE YOUR LISTING with this information:

(1) If you are a Supporting member, mail the completed form along with coupon #12 to the Executive Secretary. Sign your name and address on the back of the coupon.

(2) If you are NOT a Supporting Member, and will probably not become one, but still desire a listing, include 15¢ with your completed form.

Your coupons will not have arrived by the time you read this, so wait until they do. The deadline for these completed forms will not fall until April sometime, so sweat it not at the present.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE ACADEMY TO DO AS A PROJECT in the field of publications, or in the area of things like the fanzine library? ALL comments, suggestions, and criticisms of Academy matters in the past, present, and future ARE entertained. The only way to score in basketball is to shoot, and it's the same here. If you have a comment or idea you think is worth mentioning---mention it. Nobody in fandom has mental telepathy(whoops, that's redundant, I realize), and nobody will ever here anybody else's ideas unless they are voiced. PLEASE write either the Exec Sec., the lettercol of TCR, or anybody, for that matter! - Paul Gambaccini

THE EGO CRUSHER
by
Jeremy A. Barry

ALTER EGO #7(Roy Thomas, 3600 Hallmark Lane, Apt. G, St. Louis, Mo. 63125 - offset - 50¢ - quarterly) From the full coker cover of the Marvel Family as drawn by Biljo White to the last page of letters, this is a very satisfactory publication. The cover is every bit professional, and indicates that Biljo should be in New York working for a comic publisher. The feature article by Roy Thomas takes ten pages including illustrations to tell the story of MARVEL FAMILY COMICS, and in so doing relates the origin of Captain Marvel, Mary Marvel, Captain Marvel, Jr., and other assorted Marvels. Neaty and informative, but with a bit too much pure summary, this article makes interesting reading. An article by Richard Kyle on Solomon Grundy is the first of a series on The Justice Society Of America, which will appear in each issue of AE. I suppose Grundy is as good a place as any to begin this series, but having read enough about him previously, I would have preferred another subject. JSA buffs should like it. Captain Biljo is the art editor from now on and he makes his presence fext. Besides his cover, he has 21 spot illustrations throughout the zine, plus a seven page comic strip, "ALTER AND CAPT. EGO". The editor considers this strip "unequivocally the most original idea for a super-hero that fandom has yet produced"; this may well be, but story-wise the first helping is a bit weak. Capt. Ego crashes on Earth well ahead of his pusuers, yet from out in space they are able to observe his maneuvers on a tele-wiewer, and shortly come to grips with him. A character named Tigris intends to conquer the universe and Earth is next on his list. Ego has a very important telepathic helmet the villain wants. Instead of delegating a division or two of his fleet to capture Ego and the helmet, Tigris goes after the hero in his own ship with just a few men. He puts himself in the thick of the battle where all his plans could easily be ended by his death.nSomehow this just doesn't seem very sensible, but then most super-hero strips are senseless anyway. There are several pthers items of interest, not the least of which is a very long letter by Otto Binder. If you can afford only one fanzine this month, this one is a best buy.

FIGHTING HERO COMICS #11(G. B. Love, 9875 S.W. 212 St., Miami, Florida - ditto - 20¢ - bimonthly) Back for a second round of thrills and exitement is that lady defender of justice, The Black Scorpion. The story by Raymond Miller appears to be a vehicle for BS to show off her fighting skills(i.e., she beats up supposedly tough men), but unfortunately story and believable plot are negligible. Art by Howard Keltner is competent, but would have been enhanced by better printing. A second strip is written and illustrated by Bernie Bubnis and is titled Helios The Sun God. This I could easily have done without, thank you!

DOWN UNDER #1(Publisher and editor is John Ryan of Australia - order copies from his American agent: Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland Drive, Carrollton, Texas - ditto - 50¢ mint - irregular) A somewhat uneven first issue, but highlighted by a very interesting 11 page article by John Ryan on Australian comics from their origin to date. John had to do most of this from memory, and according to the response he's gotten from Aussie pros, he has done a tremendous job. Future issues will no doubt carry follow-up articles on much of the material just slightly covered

in this survey article. The column Ryandom is where John lets off steam, and says whatever comes to mind. It makes very interesting reading, and unless John runs dry, should be one of the most entertaining items fandom has to offer in future issues. A Point Of View column has several people discussing Australian comics with Rick Weingroff chairman as usual. This is not one of the better POVs, as it is too short to allow for development of ideas. This issue contains several other features, including a super hero comic strip by young Aussie, John Brosnan. The art by John Ryan is eyecatching, particularly the cover, and the printing job is uniformly excellent for the ditto process. This is a fanzine to be encouraged, since it has such high potential, and it will be interesting to see how well it develops.

BATMANIA #2(Billy J. White, 407 Sondra Ave., Columbia, Missouri - ditto & mimeo - now 30¢ - irregular) Here's the zine for Batman fans once again. The major feature this time is an article on Batman before he teamed up with Robin. A society called the Batmanians has been created by Biljo, and those who buy BATMANIA #2 get their membership certificates included. Biljo is full of enthusiasm for this organization, so if you're interested, why not contact him as soon as possible and make this a "going" group?

STAR-STUDDED COMICS #5(Texas Trio, 1830 Highland Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75006 - offset - 50¢ - quarterly) This is not a very well-balanced issue. It contains four stories of which one is very good, one is competent, and the other two are disappointing. Richard Green scores with "Xal-Kor The Human Cat". This is a story which I consider to be the most original of the amateur comic art creations to date. Xal-Kor comes from a planet of feline - like humanoids. His people have just defeated a race of rat-like humanoids who have been systematically conquering various universes in other dimensions. Now these rats have come to Earth to re-assemble their war machine and are disguised as humans. Xal-Kor is assigned the job of going to Earth and to smash the plans of the Rodentites. How he gets there, and what he does after arriving make enjjoyable reading. Green has written a fine story, and complements it with superior art. Biljo White's The ~~xxx~~ Fog is the competent story I mentioned. The art helps make up what the story lacks. The Doctor Weird story by Al Kuhfeld, and the Cyclops story by Ed Lahmann, are the clunkers.

KAPA-ALPHA #2(Jerry Bails, 22529 Karam Court, Warren, Michigan 48091 - ditto & mimeo - not for sale - monthly) This is the publication of the first comic slanted amateur press association. It is not really a magazine, but a compilation of material written and printed by the members, and stapled together for distribution to all contributors by Jerry Bails. Only members can obtain copies, and to be a member you must put together your own material, print it, and send it to Jerry with enough copies for all members so that it can be distributed. If this sounds like fun to you, contact Jerry at the address given above for details on how to join.

YANCY STREET JOURNAL #5(Marty Arbunich, 60 Gladys Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94110 - 15¢ - frequent) Dedicated to discussion of Marvel comics current, recents, and old. If this is your meat, then YSJ should be of interest. The present issue has many letters discussing ~~xx~~ the present Marvel situation plus reviews of comics.

END

After waiting, which seemed like over a life time, the train for L.A. arrived over three hours late due to a snowstorm in eastern New Mexico. I knew that if omens existed, with the snowstorm and the delayed train, something else had to happen, and it did. When boarding the train, we found that there was no such car number as our tickets indicated. A conductor finally found three vacant seats and about 11:30 P.M., December 18, we fell asleep. The train originally was to arrive at the Union Depot at eight, the morning of the 19th, and Ronn Foss wrote that he would try and meet the train. Since our train was three hours late, I had very little hope of anybody meeting us at the station, and there wasn't. After trying to call a number of local fans, and not making connections, I gave up. Later I called the home of Rick Durell again. Rick's wife picked us up at the depot and allowed us to wait at their place until it was time for our plane to leave for sunny-Hawaii.

Rick had left his cabinet unlocked so that I might look through his rare items. I should add that it is impossible to look for one certain item. Rick has such a large collection of all types and titles, that while looking for one item, you forget what you are looking for as these different titles appear before your eyes.

While I was looking over a large stack of 1940 comics, Richard Kyle called to see if I happened to be there, and asked if it might be all right if he dropped by. I have no idea when Richard arrived, but we discussed fanzines, artists, the new entries by Charlton and ACG. I needed information from the memory of Richard, (this is like some fantastic I BM machine) and he didn't let me down. It is a wonder the way his mind works, I believe if he had the time, he would be a one man "Information Center."

Finally at 11:00 P.M. Rick arrived home from work, and with only two hours before departing, Rick displayed the first Sunday strips of Prince Valiant, and Buck Rogers, to name a few. Rick and Richard had once discussed Capt. Marvel #1, regarding the possibility of Simon and Kirby (or part of the team) doing this issue. They believed S&K did it and after looking it over, I have to agree. This is just an opinion, but unless the artist copied the style of S&K, they did at least one story. It is my opinion that the S&K style was not that popular this early, and therefore must have been their work, but I could very likely be wrong.

When it was time to depart, Richard, Rick and Ann (Rick's wife) accompanied us to the International Airport. While waiting for the plane, we tried to use the term "graphics " instead of comics since people started to stare at us when the words comics, Superman,etc. were blurted out. If I'm not mistaken, this is the first fan write up written up in Hawaii. If it is never published, we didn't make it back to the mainland, if you see it published, we made it back.

Upon returning I was greeted by two weeks back mail. Quite a few of the letters are orders for TCR #32 with the Alley Ballot. For those who have asked why their issue was late, your letters arrived after I had left for Hawaii. I'm sorry that I've not answered questions and letters, but as of this typing, I've 13 fanzines I haven't had time to even look at, and many other informational things to tend to. Be patient and I'll try to have things back to normal by next issue.

+ +

A REPORT ON THE CAPTAIN MARVEL SHOWING IN CHICAGO ON DECEMBER 26th AND 27th.
by ALEX ALMARAZ

On December 26th and 27th a showing of the Captain Marvel serial was held in Chicago with Don Glut who was in charge of the film (which never arrived in time) and myself who was in charge of the hall rental, pizza snacks and pop, and sleeping accomodations for some of those out of town.

continue on next page

Glen D. Johnson
Box 126
Crownpoint, New Mexico 87313

GRANT ... PM 1965

1st Class

Larry Herndon
1830 Highland st.
Carrollton, Texas

Early Saturday morning December 26, I set out for South Bend to pick up Bob Butts and Keith Greene whom I had intended, but 60 miles out of Chicago my car broke down completely and I hitched a ride back to Chicago arriving around 2:00 P.M. in the middle of series of short movies loaned to Don Glut to compensate for the lateness of the Captain Marvel serial. Present then were: from out of town, Jerry Bails and beautiful wife, Sondra, Ed April and his beautiful wife, Bob Butts, Keith Greene, Coreen Casey, Roy Thomas, Don and Maggie Thompson, David M. Massaro, Larry Raybourne and Russ Keeler, Dave Taler.

From the Chicago area and suburbs were: Al Kracalik and Mart, Scott Ross, Ben Solon, Ross Kight, John Guzlowski, Don Glut, Myself, Edward Navrrete, Robert Milinski, Bob Noga, John Miaso, Doug Moench.

While the movie was going on, Ed Navarrete and myself busied ourselves in the kitchen preparing the pizzas, and with the new portable electric oven that I had bought just for the occasion we were turning out pizzas every two minutes. I was complimented on the wonderful pizzas, and when I did have a little time left before everyone went over to Billy's house, I participated in whatever conversation that I could. Everyone just seemed to be having a swell time asking Jerry a lot of questions and also Don and Maggie.

As everyone started to leave for Billy's house, Ed Navarrete helped me clean up the dishes and straighten up the kitchen before we all left. Upon arriving at Billy's, everyone was escorted upstairs in the attic where he had all his comics stored. Billy said that he does have close to twelve thousand comics. Don and Maggie seemed to be very fascinated by the vast collection. Many of Billy's comics were either bought, borrowed, or.. left alone! This collection of Billy's were given to him by a friend of his father's. Because of it Billy has made very good friends and is about to become known in fandom. His room was small and crowded and some of us had to take turns going in and out to view his comics.

As midnight approached we all started to go our way. Those that wanted hotel accomodations were welcomed to them with me arranging them. At the last moment Roy Thomas decided to stay at the hotel also so that he just might be able to talk to Don and Maggie before they left that next day. Those staying at the hotel were: Jerry Bails and wife, Don and Maggie Thompson, Dave Massaro, Correen Casey, and Roy Thomas.

On December 27th after Don Glut picked me up to go to the hall, much of the same was repeated with the exception that we didn't go to Billy's house, pictures were taken, some of the out of towners had already left, Jerry and Sondra wanted to go out that night, so Roy Thomas and Coreen joined them, to a nice little out of the way restaurant in a suburb. This time I was left all alone to clean up the hall and do the dishes.. But it was worth it! For I have the best picture that was taken there. Anyone that wishes a print of the group outside of the hall, please enclose 15¢ a picture. 10¢ for picture, 5¢ for postage. I must admit that I was very much disappointed in not seeing the serial! But seeing all those out of towners, compensated for it.